

THE  
PRESENT STATE  
OF  
POPERY  
IN  
ENGLAND.

DISCOVERING,

A NEW ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION exercis'd  
by APOSTOLICAL VICARS, &c. residing in dif-  
ferent parts of the Kingdom, and other Advances  
lately made by them.

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In a LETTER from \* \* \* \* \* to a  
Cardinal at *Rome*, dated *Jan. 1. 1733.*

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To which is prefix'd,  
An Introduction by the EDITOR.

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## THE INTRODUCTION.

**S**OME of the foreign Gazetteers in *March* last publish'd, a Paragraph of News, which has so near a Relation to the contents of the following papers, that I cannot introduce them better than by transcribing it, and making some remarks thereon; and as I observ'd it first in the *Utrecht Gazette* of March 13. N. S. I shall take it from thence.

*Rome, February, 21. N. S.* ' The congregation *de propaganda fide* falling short of money, on account of the large sums lately expended to support foreign missionaries, the  
' Pope

' Pope has order'd, by way of re-imbursment,  
 ' forty thousand crowns to be paid to the said  
 ' congregation out of the apostolick chamber.  
 ' This sum is also to be employ'd in sending  
 ' missionaries into *Scotland*, and *Ireland*.

It is somewhat surprizing, that this extraordinary article of news shou'd not be translated by any of our news-writers; for it is not enough to say, *Who does not know that there are many Romish priests in England, and that to be sure, they are maintain'd? and tho' we have laws against them, yet mankind in general agree to neglect prosecuting, or searching after them; and out of a principle of humanity, let the Roman Catholicks enjoy their opinions privately?* therefore it may be said, *this Utrecht article is no News.*

But there are, among these *Roman Catholicks*, great numbers of wealthy gentlemen, and some noblemen, who contribute largely to the support of their missionaries, and so much over and above what is necessary, that it is well known, considerable sums are collected among them, and sent out of *England* to foreign seminaries and monasteries, as well as to the maintainance of a certain family in *Italy*. I say, this is not only known to many thousands to be true, but also, that the very lowest and meanest mechanicks among them, do pay their missionaries for administering the sacraments to them; so that they are more than paid, and main-



maintain'd for these offices, not unlike the manner which the *Protestant Dissenters* take to support their ministers. So that the missionaries want no foreign assistance for their maintainance, especially in their manner of living; for they have no families to support (as our clergy have) and that some gentlemen of large estates, do wholly maintain one, or more priests, for the benefit of the neighbours of their own religion; and, as I have already observ'd, these things are winkt at, thro' a commendable principle of humanity, which I am far from censuring, much farther from stirring the common people up to use them cruelly; but when we find an account of so dangerous a thing as this of *Money* sent from *Rome* to those missionaries, it ought to alarm us a little.

Let us consider then if we do not carry our humanity to them to an excess of negligence of ourselves, for this must be for some other use, beside what is there express'd, since it is evident, that it is not wanted for that purpose.

I know not but this article from *Utrecht* might have been pass'd over by me with less observance, had not the following papers fallen into my hands, by which I find that, *here is a Romish hierarchy establish'd*, with five Ecclesiasticks of great distinction at it's head, exercising authority each in his respective province,

and assuming the title of lords; these lords indeed may require some extraordinary assistance to support their dignity. But then, this is not the indulgence which the generality of the people of *England* design to extend to the Roman catholicks; these in their humanity only suppose, that they have priests at great distance from each other administering the sacraments, &c. to them in their own way, privately. This every body tacitly admits, and will not pry into, not imagining that any great harm can come from single priests, here and there dispers'd in private families, and having no extraordinary communication with each other to form schemes, or to act in concert.

But by this discovery we find, here is a regular, constituted, national church, under the superior direction of *apostolical lords, greater than bishops, and receiving their commissions, and power from the Pope, as well as assistance, and their instructions from him, and the college de propaganda fide, erected at Rome for that purpose of propagating the Roman catholic faith among infidels and hereticks, (which are the honourable titles they bestow on Protestants)* these lords too have their proper inferiors of several degrees in each district, carrying on in concert the improvement of a political body, not connected to us by any ties, civil or religious, which cement human society; refusing the Oath to the civil magistrate,

gistrate, and confess'd enemies to our religion.

Are not the laity too, part of this church? and may we not, without any absurdity, suppose it is possible (if not already done) to form them into such a politic body, with *Lords-Generals, Colonels, Captains, &c.* But as I do not pretend to prove this, as I do that of their church, I shall leave it; and indeed it is high time; for this affair is big with too many great consequences, and contingencies, to be farther animadverted on by me; and will perhaps be more proper for those in authority, whose access is too difficult and troublesome for me; and therefore, they must take it as the publick does, to whom I am apt to think it will be of some use.

I doubt not, but I shall be ask'd, if an *Utrecht* news-writer may not insert an article of false news, as well as we often see our *English* news-writers do? and how I know the following papers to be genuine? To this I answer, that other foreign news-papers have had it since, notwithstanding it has not been translated into *English*; and there does not appear any motive to induce them to invent such a thing. The reason of my giving credit to the following letter, is that on tracing the principal things there related I find them to be facts and truths, I know there are such Persons now

now in being with such characters and such names, though some of them do sometimes go by differing Names, and these things I can prove in proper time and place; so that to what cardinal the letter was sent, or whether it was only intended to be sent is matter of small importance.

That it is and has been the custom of the Church of *Rome* to proceed as far as she dare will always occur to every one acquainted with the *English History*. *Q. Elizabeth*, *K. James*, 1st. and *K. Charles*, 1st. reigns afford notable instances of their watchfulness to improve every opportunity to encourage and raise popular discontents, and any transaction of the government relating to taxes hath serv'd their turn before now; for however the nature of affairs render them absolutely necessary, and that they appear so to all reasonable people, yet mischievous agents can always find a Party among the unthinking vulgar to join the Enemies of a Government in a clamour at them. That *Romish Priests* have sometimes been such agents, we have had proofs enough, and to our cost have often found they are not satisfy'd with barely performing religious Offices here, but are continually interfering with, and disturbing our civil affairs; and this they do not only with the power they have over their own bigotted Laity, but by going in disguises, and appearing in genteel lay dresses they have  
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opportunities of mixing in all companies, and insinuating any notions which contribute to their own dark Purposes.

We have reason to be very apprehensive that they are going on in the same manner at present, and perhaps forming some designs. The motives which induce the *Pope* and the *Congregation de propaganda Fide* to send money at this time into these countries, are not indeed clearly known to us, but they are worth thinking on, and searching after; for as it is evident that the natives of these Kingdoms do very well support their own Priests; It would be weak to suppose the court of *Rome* hath nothing else to do with their money than to enrich these their missionaries by additional supplies.

I would be very tender of what I advance in this case, for I design not to make a sham Plot, nor to accuse them of being in conspiracies. I mean extraordinary Plots and Conspiracies; for ordinary ones we know they were always in, ever since the reformation of King *Henry viii.* as often as they have had hopes of doing us any damage, or gaining to themselves any advantage.

And yet in spite of all my tenderness, I can't help saying, that ten thousand pounds sterling discover'd thus by chance (perhaps by some negligence of those who remitted it)

is

is an alarming circumstance; it will pay for a good many seditious Pamphlets; and that variety of such are sent all over the nation, is evident, as it is also, that agents are dispers'd to explain them, and in many places people hired to hollow out their part of the contents, and to wear badges of distinction; at whose expence all this is done we have not yet known, but this we certainly know, that the Jacobites and *Romish* Zealots are to a man on the clamorous side, and surely we cannot be blamed, if this discovery should excite a thought, that it is not impossible, that this 40,000 Crowns may be for such uses, and that it has been done before and may be so again; it is no new thing for the *Romish* Church to spare for no expence in such a delightful pursuit; nor any thing to be wonder'd at if they have improved this opportunity to enlarge their power.

It has been taken notice of by many observing people, and also mention'd in an honourable house, that there hath been an unusual number of *Brisks* come over since *Christmas* last. But the strange reasons alledg'd for it, and the odd circumstances attending it, require the utmost caution of what one says on so important an affair. Yet there are two reasons which I shall venture to mention, tho' I know they will be taken for very slight ones; the one is founded on a negatium, put by so great a majority on the erecting a statue in commemoration of the Revolution.

*lution.* This the Papists are so mistaken in as to imagine it a proof of the people's repentance of the hand they had in that revolution. Another is, that the weekly paper call'd the *Craftsman*, which is universally read and in popular esteem, has lately in plain terms talk'd of *another Revolution*. These are indeed poor foundations for their hopes, especially the latter reason; because we would hope that the authors of that paper, do not mean a *Revolution of the Government*; but a *Revolution of the ministry*, that themselves might come into great places; though doubtless there are hundreds of Papists and bigotted Jacobites, who cannot understand it but in their own way, and are weak enough to please themselves with it; and it is very common to see some people proceed to actions and enterprizes on such foundations for hopes of success, as to people of a contrary way of thinking appear very trivial; yet in this case who knows how these things may be magnify'd and improv'd at *Rome*? but I shall proceed no farther on this head, because I design not to supply my present deficiency of farther intelligence on this subject with old stories, nor imperfect and doubtful new ones, tho' I could give some built on strong foundations.

For this reason I shall give no account at present of their manner of governing, or proceeding, in *Scotland*; nor have I any thing extraordinary

traordinary of *Ireland*, because I take it to be no news to intelligent people, that that nation is divided into Diocesses with *Romish* Bishops, &c. obeying the papal authority as regularly and implicitly as in any openly profess'd *Roman* Catholick country.

I cannot pretend to determine how long they have thus canton'd out *England* and *Wales* amongst themselves, and have had Lords vicars exercising jurisdiction deriv'd from a foreign authority; but this discovery of it is I am sure new to all *British* Protestants; and as it is a demonstrable fact, I hope it will be a motive to excite us to look well about us, and also to restrain our party passions which blind us from seeing the impositions and dangerous advances of the common enemy.



A TRANS-



A  
TRANSLATION  
OF A  
LETTER,

*Written in Italian by a Romish  
Divine at London, to a Car-  
dinal at Rome, wherein he  
gives his Eminence an exact  
account of the present state of  
Popery in England, also, of  
the Heads and chief Members  
of their Mission, &c.*

To Cardinal \_\_\_\_\_ at Rome.

Most Eminent Lord,

**P**Ursuant to your eminence's request, I  
here send your eminence a brief, but  
true account of the situation of our  
affairs in this kingdom; which, I flat-  
ter myself will be the more acceptable to  
your eminence (whose zeal for the extension

of the catholic faith has been most conspicuously distinguish'd on several occasions) as I can assure your eminence, that since the pretended reformation, we have not had so good a prospect of cultivating this vineyard for the use of the Lord, as at present. The favour shewn in the last reign, as well as in the present, to that sect call'd Presbyterians, who are rigid observers of *Calvin's* doctrine, and commonly known by the name of *Whigs*, has so provoked the greatest and most considerable part of the sect call'd church of *England* protestants (who, till of late, were not only in high esteem with the reigning princes, but also, had the whole administration of publick affairs in their own hands) that they have studied nothing, during these two reigns, but to raise a general discontent in the public against the family of *Hanover*, their ministers, and all the measures taken by them to preserve peace in this kingdom, as well as the crown of these realms in the present family.

Thus, most eminent lord, whilst nothing but discord, discontent, and jealousy (the true effects of disobedience to his holiness, and our church) reign among those contending and jarring parties, divine providence furnishes us with all the opportunities we cou'd wish for, to make our harvest flourish; for tho' our enemies are sensible that our doctrine is, and ever will be the same, as it was before their pretended reformation, yet the Presbyterians are so taken up in defeating the interests and views  
of

of the *Tories*, that we have not much room to apprehend any danger from them, as long as they are opposed by the latter in all their measures. The *Tories* look upon us to be interested in their disputes, and seem rather to claim our assistance to advance their pretensions than to give us any uneasiness at present; but as the principles of these two parties are equally destructive of those of the holy catholic and apostolic church, we think it our chiefest interest and wellfare, to interfere with neither of them, till they have ruin'd one another. Their clergy are also divided, some declaring for one party and some for the other, being induced thereto, some of them thro' religious motives, and some for political ones, so that in a little time, we hope to see the words of scripture fullfill'd with regard to them, *omne regnum in se divisum, desolabitur*. Every kingdom divided in it self, must fall. This divine consolation, together with the incredible success we have had, in bringing proselytes of all ranks to our communion (a detail whereof wou'd be too tedious to be inserted here) induce us to believe, that the *Roman catholic* religion will be once more restored to its primitive flourishing condition in *England*.

I must confess, that the late proceedings of the States General against admitting a *Vicar-apostolick* into the republick, where our holy religion is tolerated, very much alarm'd us here, where, far from having any toleration

in our favour, and the laws so strict against us; that on account of the proceedings of the *Hollanders* we were very apprehensive that the laws wou'd be put in execution against us. The expulsion of the *Saltzburghers* was yet more terrifying to us, for we expected that this government wou'd make reprizals on the catholicks of *England*, as some *German* Princes had threaten'd their *Roman* catholic subjects with; being irritated at the usage the *Saltzburghers* had met from a *Roman* catholic bishop who was their sovereign. Much about the same time, several churches were taken from the protestants of *Hungary*, which encreased our fears; but what added most to them, was, that in *France*, a protestant clergyman had been put to death, for exercising his functions according to the reformed church. But, thanks be to the almighty, who alone can deliver his elect from all impending dangers, and to whose singular protection, we impute the silence which (with regard to us) has been observed by our enemies here on these frightful occasions, which has entirely dissipated all our fears.

Now I proceed to give your eminence (in consequence of your orders to me) an account of the particular districts assign'd to our bishops, or vicars apostolic, to exercise their authority and functions in; and shall begin with *London*, which is our metropolis, where the venerable bishop *Giffard* who was consecrated here in the reign of K. *J.* the second, holds his seat; this worthy pastor, and faithful servant of the  
 Lord,



Lord, has gone thro' several persecutions and confinements, since he came into this mission, with exemplary piety and constancy. Some years ago, on account of his great age, Dr. *Peters*, otherwise known by the name of *White*, another worthy missionary was made his coadjutor, having before served as chaplain to the late earl of *Derwentwater*, who suffer'd martyrdom for his attachment to the catholic faith, and loyalty to his unfortunate king.

These two prelates take special care, that no catholic family in their jurisdiction, shall want the assistance of missionaries; for they constantly recommend chaplains to them, to read prayers on sundays, holy days, and other particular days of devotion; they also preach to them very frequently, and tho' all this, is carried on with the greatest privacy in the world, yet fails not of producing wonderful good effects, and brings a vast sight of strayed sheep into the pale of the true church, and to the light of the catholic faith. They also recommend chaplains to all the catholic Embassadors who reside here, under whose protection they enjoy vast privileges, to our great advantage, and the freedom of exercising publicly all their functions without comptroul. They also send missionaries to most of the *English* plantations in the *West-Indies*, where several catholic families of this, and the other nations, subject to this crown, reside.

It will not (I hope) be disagreeable to your eminence, that I here mention those missionaries, who at present distinguish themselves most in this district, to make their apostleship good, by strenuously endeavouring to replant the Lord's vineyard in this abandon'd nation, and for brevity's sake, will only mention such as first occur to my memory, without observing any preference, as to their dignity or titles, which they may otherwise have.

Father *John Baptist Piggot*, is one of the chief, and has done exceeding services to our holy church, by the many persons of distinction, besides those of lower rank, which he has reconciled to our faith. This holy man has form'd a community of converted gentlewomen in a neighbouring village to the northward of this city, and as they are (all of them) persons of fortune, they live very easy and happy under his direction. These gentlewomen bestow large sums of money yearly, towards maintaining several poor catholic families in this city, and send several considerable charities to colleges, seminaries, and nunneries, founded for this nation in foreign countries. They also portion several young women, who become nuns beyond seas. These (most eminent lord) are examples worthy of the primitive saints, and of which, we have still (thanks be to the Omnipotent) daily examples in this nation.

Father

Father *Harvey* is another very considerable missionary, for besides the several devout societies which he has erected in this city and suburbs, to whom he assiduously preaches, like another saint *Paul*, by which means he has brought a great number of profelytes over to our bless'd communion; he has also set up a school for the benefit of catholic children, where he instructs them in all the principles of our holy religion; and tho' the laws are very severe against us on this head, yet, for the reasons already mention'd, he practices, in this double capacity, without any disturbance.

The success this pious father's undertakings have been attended with, and the applause so deservedly given him by our zealous catholics, induced several other missionaries to set up schools also, and to preach with more constancy than had been hitherto done. These schools have render'd themselves so famous already, thro' the good management and strict discipline observed by their governors, but particularly on account of the practice of our holy religion, that besides the children of our catholic Gentry (such of them as are not sent abroad to be educated from their infancy) and those of rich merchants and tradesmen, which are instructed in them, the catholic merchants of *Maryland*, *Barbadoes*, &c. send their sons to *England* to be educated by those fathers. Among all our schools, however, none comes up to that of *Winchester*, a city in the west of *England*, where we have at present upwards  
of

of one hundred pensioners or boarders; it is now chiefly under the care and direction of one father *Fleetwood*.

Dr. *Gulston*, commonly known by the name of Dr. *Sharp*, who was in his youth brought up at one of the universities here, but, being of the number of the predestinated, was, consequently, converted to the faith of Christ, and having afterwards studied abroad, where he went into orders, has, since his return to the mission, signaliz'd himself both by his preaching, in which he has a very efficacious talent; and the lives of the saints which he rescued from its ruins, and publish'd, for the edification of pious and devout readers. He also publish'd a catechism for the instruction of our youth, and confuted, in a most learned manner, a sermon lately preach'd by a certain protestant clergyman here.

Father *Morgan*, and father *Parkison* both jesuits, and true sons of their renown'd founder *Saint Ignatius de Loyola*, have been, and are still, most indefatigable preachers of our gospel and faith, and have done extraordinary services to the church.

Father *Smith*, another jesuit, is so famous for his zeal, and uncommon fervour for the holy cause, that we have him in the odour of sanctity.

Father *Challoner*, who is an eminent divine and physician, publish'd this year a treatise in vindication of the unerring authority of the catholic church in matters of faith against the late exceptions of a certain *Lincolnshire* minister



minister on the subject of infallibility. This learned piece has silenc'd the parson; neither has any of the fraternity thought it advisable to enter the lists for him, or espouse his quarrel; so that our learned doctor and his friends triumph now over the scurrilous, and ill-grounded insults offer'd by our enemies, to tarnish the reputation of Christ's establish'd church. The doctor being also a very able physician, as I have already observed of him, recommends himself to the acquaintance of several dissenters, on whom (they being at first ignorant of his principles) he gains the wish'd for ascendant, by degrees, makes them sensible of the errors they live in, and reconciles them to our faith, with little difficulty.

Our other missionaries, which (I thank God) we are not sparingly supply'd with, are very active all over the nation, and answer the holy ends and purposes for which they were sent into our mission.

The Nunnery at *Hammersmith* is under the direction of our bishop and coadjutor, and serves for a noviciate to educate young gentlewomen till they are sent to monasteries beyond Sea, where they make their religious vows. There are besides these, other young ladies and gentlewomen educated in this religious House, who, when they come to the years of discretion, and maturity, are married to catholic noblemen and gentlemen.

The north of *England* is under the jurisdiction of bishop *Williams*, a worthy father of the  
D
order

order of saint *Dominick*, who was sent in that quality from *Rome* by the late pope *Benedict* the thirteenth, and has a glorious number of missionaries to serve the catholics in his district. This holy pastor had a great struggle at *Rome* before his commission cou'd be deliver'd to him for the mission; and as I am sensible your eminence never had a genuine account of the rise of the dispute which retarded this bishop's dispatches, therefore do hope, that it will not offend your eminence, that I take the liberty here to lay a short account of this affair before you.

In the year 1724, this doctor *Williams* and father *Martin*, both *Dominicans*, were sent by doctor *Hansbie*, who was then provincial of that order in *England*, to *Rome*, to solicit some favours from pope *Benedict*, who was a regular of the same order, and to make some remonstrances against bishop *Peters*, bishop *Giffard's* coadjutor, who bore very hard upon their body in the mission. These remonstrances were laid before the congregation *de propaganda fide*, where they were no sooner examin'd, but assurances were given of redress, and orders were actually dispatch'd to bishop *Peters*, to shew reasons for his behaviour to the complainants, without delay.

The bishop was in no small confusion when he receiv'd a mandate for that purpose from the congregation *de propaganda fide*. But his lordship having call'd a consistory of his own friends at *London*, and having laid the case before them,

them, it was resolved that a few repeating gold watches, and other presents of value, shou'd be sent to cardinal *Coscia*, and the chief members of the congregation, which, they were of opinion, wou'd be the best answer they cou'd make on such an occasion. This resolution was agreed upon *nemine contradicente*, and executed with as much expedition as the mandate requir'd; the presents were no sooner arriv'd (at that court) but bishop *Peters's* agent, to whom they were consign'd, deliver'd them to the proper personages, and also made a suitable apology, wherein he endeavour'd to clear the bishop from the charge laid against him by the *Dominicans*. By these means (most eminent lord) the remonstrances were dropt, and never brought since on the carpet.

Doctor *Williams*, notwithstanding the vexatious disappointment he had met with in this affair, wherein the interest of his own order, and of all the regulars in the mission, who also complain'd very loudly of the ill-usage they had received from bishop *Peters*, was concern'd, however, managed so dextrously afterwards with relation to his favourite project, that he procured himself to be represented in a very advantageous light, and worthy of the pastoral dignity, by some *English* noblemen, to the *Chevalier*; on this the *Chevalier* very cordially recommended him to the pope, who thereupon consecrated him bishop, with a title in *partibus*

*infidelium*, and order'd that a commission constituting him vicar-apostolic in the *English* mission, shou'd be drawn up and deliver'd to him. But this was not done with so much expedition, as to give bishop *Peters* who, on account of the late proceedings against himself, was his mortal enemy; no time to hear of his promotion, and opposing his coming into *England* with that character; for his lordship's agent whom I have already mention'd, having appriz'd him of Dr. *Williams's* advancement, and that the holy father had order'd him into this mission, bishop *Peters*, resolv'd to prevent the same, impeach'd him of high crimes and misdemeanours to the congregation *de propaganda fide*, which put a stop to bishop *Williams's* commission for several months, as it wou'd have done ever since, notwithstanding the great interest his lordship had at *Rome*, if the honourable Mr. R— had not made him a present of a mare he had, which was look'd upon to be the finest in all that country, and very much admired by the chief personages of that city.

Bishop *Williams* took this happy opportunity to wait on cardinal *Coscia*, and having made his eminence a present of the mare, and remonstrated his grievances to him, which he aver'd to be the malicious effects of bishop *Peters's* pique against him, and his whole order, the cardinal thereupon prevail'd on the congregation to dispatch his commissions, and thus



thus (most eminent lord) this worthy prelate extricated himself from the political laybrin<sup>th</sup> he was bewilder'd in.

Upon his arrival in *Yorkshire*, which is the province wherein he holds his seat, in order to take the charge of his flock upon him, he convened all our clergy in that district, who have a fund in trust, to maintain the grandeur, and dignity of their prelate for the time being, and having notified his commission to them, his lordship desired that the benefit of the said fund wou'd be assign'd to him, as it had been to his predecessors; to which the trustees made answer, that the fund was design'd for such vicars apostolic as were of the secular clergy, and that as his lordship was a profess'd member of the regular clergy, he cou'd have no right to demand it. Tho' this unjust refusal has caused (most eminent lord) great variance between this holy pastor and his clergy, which will subsist as long as they persevere in their resolutions against him, yet notwithstanding this great misunderstanding between the bishop and his clergy, they pursue with uncommon zeal their missionary functions, with great success. If such a dispute shou'd happen between the clergy of the church of *England*, and any of their pretended bishops, there wou'd not be a corner in this nation, but what wou'd ring of it; for there is nothing more customary among those Men, than upon the least division, to vilify one another in the most scandalous and scurrilous manner

manner their unbounded passions can invent. But as for our part, no temporal Interest can disunite us in the performance of our duty to God, and our holy mother the church.

Now that I am upon this topick (most eminent lord) give me leave to acquaint your eminence with a dispute which happen'd lately here, occasion'd by bishop *Peters*'s refusing to approve of the chaplains employ'd by count *Kinsky*, his imperial majesty's ambassador at this court, and don't think I can do the same, without offending either party, but by inserting the letter which bishop *Peters* wrote to the count's secretary on that occasion.

MONSIEUR,

QUE monseigneur l'Ambassadeur ait l'autorité de prendre dans la chapelle telles prêtres, qu'il veuille, quand même le pape s'y opposeroit, c'est une question qui ne me convient pas de décider, si son Excellence avoit une idée juste de notre caractère, elle verroit, que personne n'a le pouvoir de nous forcer d'admettre qui se soit aux fonctions pastorales, ni a nous faire rendre raison de notre conduite. Puisque cependant vous voulez scavoir les motifs qui m'engagent a refuser de donner les pouvoirs aux trois religieux en question; je veux bien avoir cette condescendance pour son excellence; je vous dirai donc, que je leur refuse leurs approbation.

1<sup>o</sup>. Parceque j'ai reçu des ordres expres de sa sainteté, & de la sacrée congregation, de

de la refuser aux Irlandois qui viennent ici,  
& de les renvoyer a leur mission.

2<sup>o</sup>. Parceque ces trois, dont vous me parles, un a quitté son habit religieux, & a passé les mers sans la permission de ses superieurs; & que l'autre a reçu un precept formel des siens d'aller incessamment en Irlande. Nous devons donc, regarder le premier comme un vagabonde & un apostât, & par consequence, excommunié, & suspendu de ses fonctions, meme de celebrer les misteres; & le seconde comme un disobeissant formel aux precepts des ses superieurs.

3<sup>o</sup>. Ayant deja plus de Missionnaires, que nous en avons besoin pour les fonctions pastorales, nous nous croyons obliges de n'en pas multiplier le nombre.

Quoique j'aye plusieurs autres raisons pour justifier ma conduite & (si j'ose le dire) plus essentielles encore que celles la, je me borne cependant a cet petit nombre, meditez les, & je me flatte que vous les trouverez justes.

Si son Excellence croit pouvoir prendre a son service tel Pretre qui lui plaira, qu'elle considere, qu'elle repondrat devant Dieu, d'avoir laissé celebrer les divines misteres a de vagabonds, & de disobeissants formels, & a leur superieurs, & a sa sainteté, & a la sacrée congregation. Pour nous, du moins, nous avons l'aimable consolation de n'y point consentir, & de nous y etre opposé.

Si j'ai permit a Delany de celebrer, & d'entendre les confessions des domestiques  
de

de son excellence, c'est, que je ignorois, de  
 quelle maniere il s'estoit depouillé des habits  
 saints de son ordre: au reste, Monsieur, assurez  
 son excellence, que je n'ai rien contre sa  
 personne, & que j'ai pour elle, tout le respect  
 dû a sa naissance, & son caractère, & que je  
 l'aurai toujours; si ce que je fais, est desaf-  
 greable, comme son premier chapelain en est  
 le seul auteur, quoique je puisse le punier,  
 & qu'il soit dans le cas des autres apparten-  
 ants a la mission d'Irlande, je lui laisse a  
 elle meme le choix du chatiment qu'il  
 merite. Je ne doute pas qu'ayant appelée  
 lui meme ces étrangers il n'obtienne bientôt  
 de leurs superieurs, la permission de rester  
 ici, mais cette permission n'affoiblira jamais la  
 defence que sa sainteté, & la sacrée congre-  
 gation ont fait a ces memes superieurs de  
 permettre a aucun de leurs sujets de rester  
 ici sans notre consentement.

Assurez son excellence de mon attache-  
 ment, & de mon respect sincere. Je suis tres  
 parfaitement

Votre tres humble & tres

10. Decbr. 1728. obeissant Serviteur,

B. WHITE.



TRANSLATION of the fore-going  
Letter from Bishop Peters,  
(alias *White*) to Count Kin-  
ski's Secretary.

SIR,

**T**HAT my lord the ambassador has the power of taking into his chapel such priests as he pleases, when even the pope himself would oppose him, is a question no way proper for me to decide. If his excellence had a just idea of our character, he wou'd see, that no body has power to force us to admit any body to the pastoral functions, nor to oblige us to give an account of our conduct. However, since you are desirous to know the motives that engage me to refuse their faculties to the three Regulars in dispute, I am willing to have that condescension for his excellence.

I tell you then, that I refuse them their approbation,

First, Because I have received express orders from his holiness and from the sacred congregation, to refuse their faculties to the Irish that come here, and to send them to their own mission.

Secondly, Because the three you mention to me, the one has quitted his religious habit, and has cross'd the seas without the permission of his superiors; and that the other has received a formal precept from his superiors, commanding him to go

forthwith into Ireland. We therefore should regard the first as a vagabond and apostate; and consequently excommunicated, and suspended from his functions, and from celebrating the mysteries. And the second as guilty of formal disobedience to the precepts of his superiours. \*

Thirdly, Having already more missionaries for the pastoral functions than we have need for, we therefore think ourselves oblig'd not to multiply their number.

Tho' I have several other reasons to justify my conduct, and (if I dare say it) still more essential than those assign'd, I nevertheless confine my self to that small number; meditate them, and I flatter my self that you will find them just.

If his excellence believes that he can take into his service such priests as he shall think fit, let him consider that he must answer before God, for having suffer'd vagabonds, and persons guilty of formal disobedience to their own superiors, to his holiness, and to the sacred congregation, to celebrate the divine mysteries; for our part, at least, we have the amiable consolation not to have consented thereto, and to have opposed the same.

If I have suffer'd Delany to celebrate, and to bear the confessions of his excellency's domesticks, it was because I knew not in what manner he had strip'd himself of the holy habits of his order. As to any thing else (Sir) assure his excellence that I have nothing against his person, and that I have, and always will have for him, all the respect due

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\* N. B. No mention is made of the third, in any part of this letter.

to his birth and character. If what I act is disagreeable, as his first chaplain is the sole author thereof, tho' I can punish him, and that he is in the same case with those belonging to the mission of Ireland, I leave to his excellence the choice of the chastisement which he deserves. I don't doubt but that as he sent for those strangers himself, he will very soon obtain leave for them from their superiors to remain here, but such a permission will never weaken the orders of his holiness, and the sacred congregation, prohibiting those very superiors to suffer any of their subjects to stay here without our consent.

Assure his excellence of my attachment, and sincere respect. I am,

Your most obedient, and

10. Octob. 1728.

most humble servant,

B. WHITE.

Notwithstanding the several heavy charges contain'd in this letter against the ambassador's chaplains, they found means to convince his excellence that they were all groundless, (I will not say untrue) whereupon that nobleman continued them in his chapel, tho' they had not full powers, till the reigning King of Great-Britain went to visit his German dominions, whither count Kinsk follow'd him.

and on his return to *England* again, made *Brussels* his way, where the apostolick nuncio resides, with whom he had a long conference, and having made it appear to the nuncio that the bishop's accusations against the chaplains he had employ'd cou'd never be justified; the nuncio order'd the bishop to grant them all their faculties without any restriction, or limitation, and thus (most eminent lord) ended this dispute, tho' to the great dissatisfaction, and (I may venture to say) discredit of the bishop; for, during the time that these missionaries had not their full powers, it might be said that we had a chapel, and no chapel; for as much as his excellence employ'd missionaries, who cou'd administer none of the sacraments, which gave no small disgust to our devout catholicks, particularly to our profelytes, who are always, very observant of all our holy mysteries, and cannot well bear to see any disputes among the members of their church; on the other hand, several of our missionaries, who were apprehensive, that the number of their devotees wou'd diminish, if these chaplains shou'd be authoriz'd to act as themselves did, which wou'd of course lessen their emoluments, were not sorry for that unhappy difference

Most eminent lord, notwithstanding, the bad example set us by bishop *Peters* in his attempts to crush and persecute our Regulars in the mission, which has created a general enmity between the Seculars and Regulars throughout  
this



this nation, (I am sorry I can't say but what it still reigns among them) and tho' it might be expected, that this spirit of hatred and opposition, wou'd considerably abate their zeal and fervour in cultivating this vineyard; yet such are the wonderful effects of divine Providence, under whose protection *we alone* can say, that we are guided to a true knowledge of our Creator and Redeemer, that far from extinguishing, or ever allaying the holy fire, which makes them always thirst after the recovery of the *stray'd flock*, that all the missionaries of what denomination soever, have, ever since the late disputes, continued to vie with one another in performing the apostolical exercises of preaching, instructing, and converting.

The principality of *Wales* is under the care of bishop *Pritchard*, and the West of *England* under that of bishop *Stoner*; as the extent of their jurisdiction is very large, so is the number of their adherents and missionaries in proportion; and thus, most eminent lord, this nation is carefully supplied.

Our laity, particularly our noblemen, and ladies, most eminent lord, act as strenuously in concert with our missionaries, to promote our blessed cause, and extend the boundaries of Christ's jurisdiction, as well as to add to the number of his true believers, as ever *Constantine*, or *Theodosius* did; neither do we want for another pious *Helena* of this nation,

nation, in these our days; for, among the great numbers of ladies and gentlewomen, who pattern their conduct in this transitory life, from the glorious examples set them by that blessed empress, the lady P—R E justly deserves the praises, as well as the title of a faithful successor to that saint, I presume, it is not necessary to give your eminence a detail of this lady's exemplary life; since, I am very sure, that one day or other it will appear in publick; let it suffice then, (most eminent lord) that we do not scruple here to think her merits equal to those in the catalogue of our saints.

In short, most eminent lord, since your eminence has been pleas'd to honour me with your commands, I look upon my self, oblig'd to send you as ample and true an account of our present situation, as the lenity we are treated with deserves; which I hope, your eminence will grant, to have seen in this letter; one thing I had almost forgot, and that is, that all our Regular corps, hold their chapters in this city, as often as they have occasion, without any apprehensions, since this ministry has so powerful a party to combat with, as I have already mention'd; however, we heartily wish that all our regular missionaries were commanded by superiors of our own nation; for the *Carêmes* who have a *French* président, cannot have so much interest among our quality, as if they were govern'd

govern'd by a native, that cou'd recommend and introduce them to all the persons of note and zeal for our communion in this Island. I humbly conceive, (most eminent lord) that it wou'd be very prudent of our holy father, to redress this inconvenience by appointing natives of *England* to preside over that holy order, I conclude, wishing your Eminence a happy New Year,

*Most eminent Lord,*

*Your eminence's most Obedient, and*

*most devoted Humble Servant,*

R. E.

Jan. 1, 1733

P. S. ' I don't find (most eminent lord) that  
' the court of *France* encourages the mission  
' of *Scotland*, as it had engaged to do, but  
' hope that his holiness, and the congrega-  
' tion, will take care to see that nation sup-  
' ply'd with missionaries.

F I N I S